

PHILANDER C. BURCH.

JUNE 14, 1898.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. CANNON, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 4725.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 4725) granting a pension to Philander C. Burch, have examined the same and report:

The bill proposes to pension the petitioner at the rate of \$12 per month. The record of the case discloses the following: The soldier is a pensioner under the general law at the rate of \$8 per month, for wound of leg received in line of duty at the battle of Chickamauga, and has claimed additional pension under said law for rheumatism and catarrh, which he alleges to have contracted in the service. The claim as based on these additional disabilities has been rejected upon the ground of no record of treatment in service and no satisfactory evidence of origin of same. He is shown by the records of the War Department to have enlisted March 18, 1862, and to have been discharged on surgeon's certificate of disability (because of wound) July 27, 1864, and it is of record that very extensive gangrene followed the said wound.

The soldier has advanced the contention that the rheumatism with which he is afflicted was caused by the wound of leg for which he is pensioned, and while the Commissioner of Pensions does not affirm this view of the case, it is not an improbable one. Testimony in the case shows said rheumatism to have been existent as early as 1873—the claimant alleges it to have existed in the service—and examinations by boards of surgeons in recent years disclose a pensionable degree of disability therefrom, and in view of these facts and that the petitioner was grievously wounded in line of duty, and that \$8 per month appears to be an incommensurate allowance, the passage of the bill is recommended.